

Serial No. 09/811,749

Group Art Unit: 2626

REMARKS

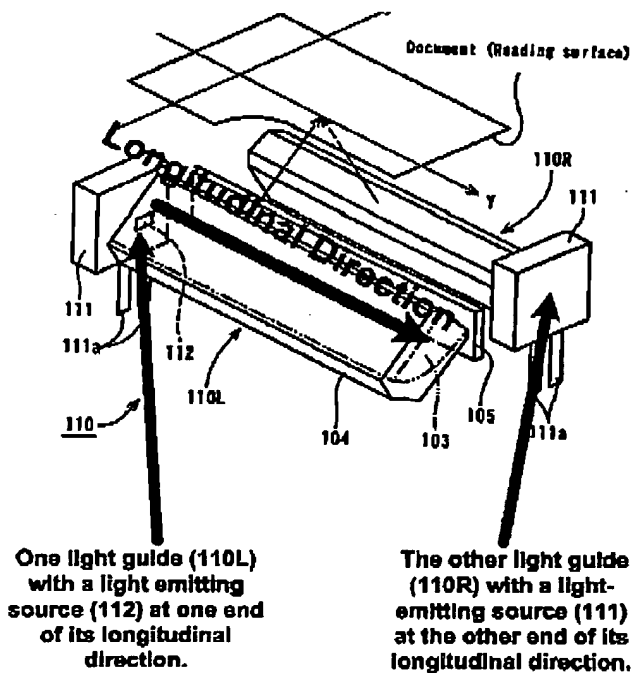
Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of the present application.

The claims have not been amended. They are reproduced herein as a courtesy to the Examiner.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,172,745 (Voser). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

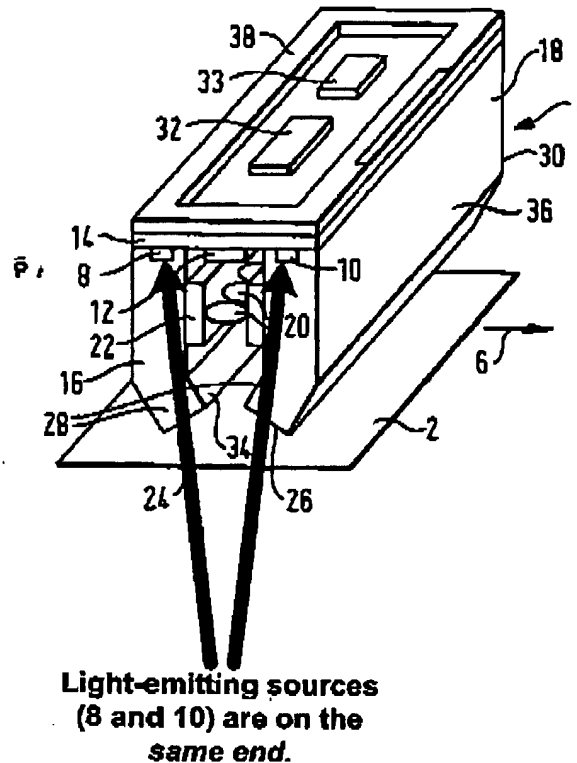
Applicant notes that the invention as articulated in claim 1 is directed to a line illuminating device, such as that which could be used in a document scanning system, for example. The line illuminating device is required to have two light guides, each having a light-emitting source at opposite ends of their respective longitudinal directions: "one light guide is provided, at one end of its longitudinal direction, with a first light-emitting source, while the other light guide is provided, at the other end of its longitudinal direction, with a second light-emitting source." See claim 1 (emphasis added). An exemplary embodiment of such an arrangement is presented in Figure 11 of the present application, which is reproduced below together with additional textual comments.



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The Examiner purports to find such a feature presented in Figure 1 of Voser.
Figure 1 of Voser is presented below.



As can be seen from Figure 1 of Voser, the light emitting sources (identified by reference numerals 8 and 10) are on the same end of their respective light guides.¹ This stands in contrast with the requirement that they be disposed at opposite ends as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Applicant goes on to note that if Voser were modified to position one of the light-emitting sources at the opposite end, as required by claim 1, the system would not work. Thus, such a modification is also not obvious in the context of the teachings of Voser.

¹ Applicant does not concede that the light-emitting sources of Voser are located at longitudinal ends of their respective light guides. Instead Applicant notes that the light-emitting sources are disposed at *crosswise* ends of their respective light guides, and extend longitudinally. Applicant reserves the right to present this and other arguments in the future.

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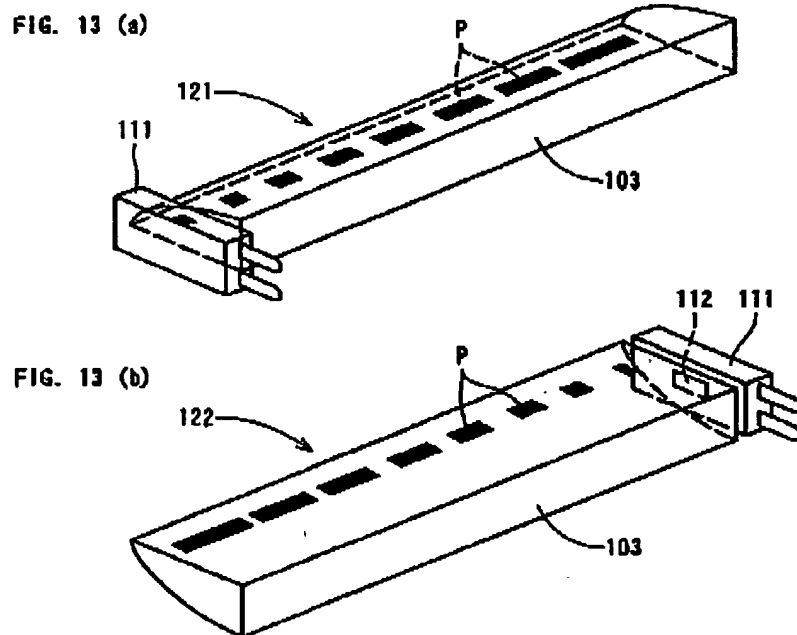
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Because Voser does not disclose and/or teach disposing light-emitting sources at opposite longitudinal ends of respective light guides, Voser does not anticipate independent claim 1. Further, it is not obvious to modify the system of Voser to include such a modification, because the system of Voser would not function if such a modification were made. Therefore, independent claim 1 is also not obvious in view of Voser. For at least these reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentably distinct from Voser, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Rejection of Claims 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 5-10 stand rejected, as being anticipated by Voser. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant points out that that independent claims 5, 9, and 10 each require "light-scattering patterns" to be formed along the longitudinal direction of the light guides. Exemplary embodiments of light guides with scattering patterns (identified by reference character "P"), are presented in Figures 13(a) and 13(b) of the present application, reproduced below.



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The Examiner argues that light-scattering patterns are disclosed in Figure 1 of Voser. However, examination of Figure 1 (presented above herein) reveals no such patterns. Indeed, Applicant finds no mention of light-scattering patterns anywhere in Voser. Therefore, Voser does not anticipate claims 5-10. Further, there is no motivation stated in Voser to modify the system therein to include such light-scattering patterns. Therefore, the teachings of Voser do not render obvious the invention as articulated in claims 5-10. For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claims 5-10 is improper, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Summary

Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. Each of these claims is believed to be allowable for the reasons stated herein. This response is believed to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Applicant urges prompt allowance and passage of this application to issuance. If the Examiner believes that discussion of any matter regarding this application is desirable, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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